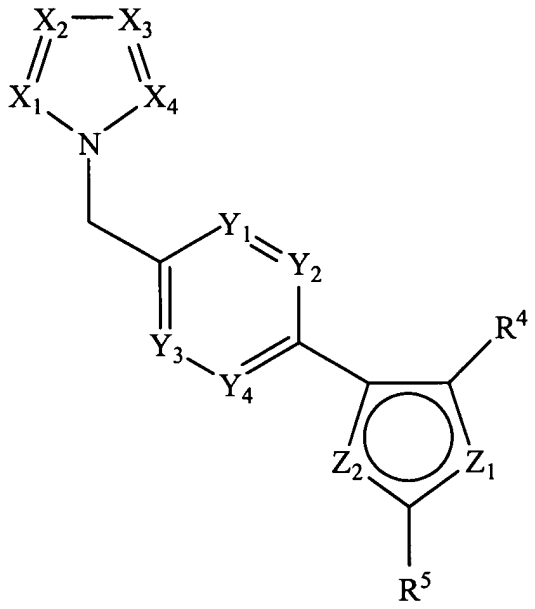
CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Amended) A compound of formula I,



wherein

X_1 represents -C(R^1)- and X_2 represents -N-;

X_3 represents -C(R^2)-;

X_4 represents -C(R^3)-;

R^1 represents H, and R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6}-alkyl or halo;

Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, and Y_4 independently represent -CH- or -CF-;

Z_1 represents S;

Z_2 represents -CH-, -O-, or -N-;

R^4 represents -$S(O)_2N(H)C(O)R^6$, -$S(O)_2N(H)S(O)_2R^6$, or -$C(O)N(H)S(O)_2R^6$,

R^5 represents C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6}-alkyl or di-C_{1-3}-alkylamino-C_{1-4}-alkyl;
R^6 represents C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6}-alkyl, and C_{1-3} alkoxy-C_{1-6}-alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylamino or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino
or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 2-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^2 represents C_{1-3} alkyl, halo or H.

12. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein R^2 represents H or methyl.

13. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein R^2 represents H.

14. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^3 represents C_{1-3} alkyl, halo or H.

15. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 14 wherein R^3 represents H.

16. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Y_1, Y_2, Y_3 and Y_4 all represent -CH-.

Claims 17 and 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Z_2 represents -CH-.

20. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^4 represents $-S(O)_2N(H)C(O)R^6$.

21. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^5 represents *n*-butyl or *iso*-butyl.

22. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 21 wherein R^5 represents *iso*-butyl.

23. (Previously Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein, when R^4 represents $-S(O)_2N(H)C(O)R^6$, $-S(O)_2N(H)S(O)_2R^6$ or $-C(O)N(H)S(O)_2R^6$, then R^6 represents *n*-butoxymethyl, *iso*-butoxy or *n*-butoxy.

24. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 23 wherein R^6 represents *n*-butoxy.

25. (Previously Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein, when X_1, X_3 and X_4 all represent -CH-, Y_1, Y_2, Y_3 and Y_4 all represent -CH-, Z_2 represents -CH- and R^5 represents *n*-butyl or *iso*-butyl, then R^4 represents $-S(O)_2N(H)C(O)R^6$, in which R^6 represents -O-*n*-butyl, -O-*iso*-propyl, -O-*iso*-butyl or $-CH_2$-O-*n*-butyl.

26. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, which is:
N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-l-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthio-phene-2-sulfonamide;
N-iso-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-l-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl-thiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-iso-propyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-l-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl-thiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-(butoxyacetyl)-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
~~*N*-butyloxycarbonyl-2-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-4-*iso*-butylbenzenesulfonamide;~~

N-(butylamino)carbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl-thiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-butylsulfonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
~~*N*-butylsulfonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-carboxamide;~~
~~*N*-butyloxycarbonyl-4-butyl-2-(4imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)benzenesulfonamide;~~
N-ethyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl-thiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-[4-(4-methylimidazol-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-(*N*-butyl-*N*-methylamino)carbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide; or
N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-(2-methoxyethyl)-thiophene-2-sulfonamide.

27. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

Claims 28-31 (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and an AT1 receptor antagonist, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

33. (Original) A kit of parts comprising components:

(a) a pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier; and

(b) a pharmaceutical formulation including an AT1 receptor antagonist, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier, which components (a) and (b) are each provided in a form that is suitable for administration in conjunction with the other.

34. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

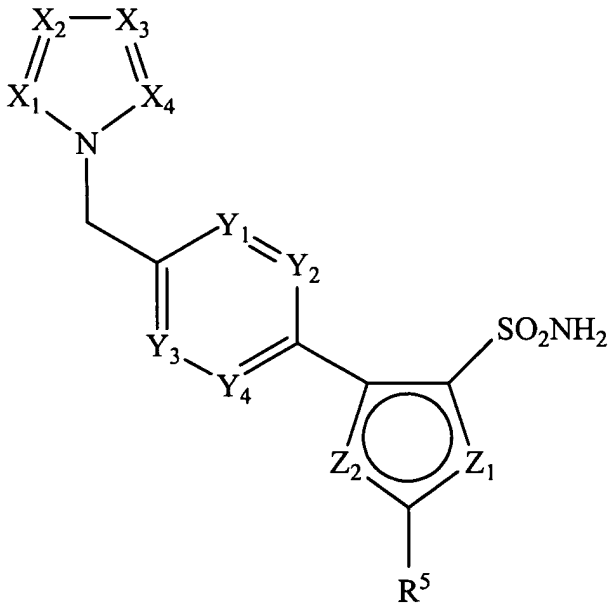
35. (Original) A kit of parts comprising components:

(a) a pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture is with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier; and

(b) a pharmaceutical formulation including an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier, which components (a) and (b) are each provided in a form that is suitable for administration in conjunction with the other.

36. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a compound as defined in claim 1, which comprises:

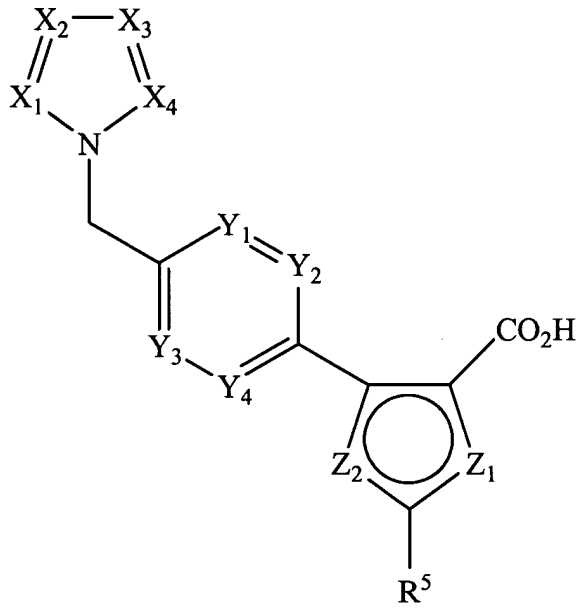
(i) for compounds of formula I in which R^4 represents --$S(O)_2N(H)C(O)R^6$ or --$S(O)_2N(H)S(O)_2R^6$, and R^6 is as defined in claim 1, reaction of a compound of formula II,



wherein X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Z_1, Z_2 and R^5 are as defined in claim 1 with a compound of formula III, R^6GL^1 III wherein G represents C(O) or $S(O)_2$ (as appropriate), L^1 represents a suitable leaving group and R^6 is as defined in claim 1;

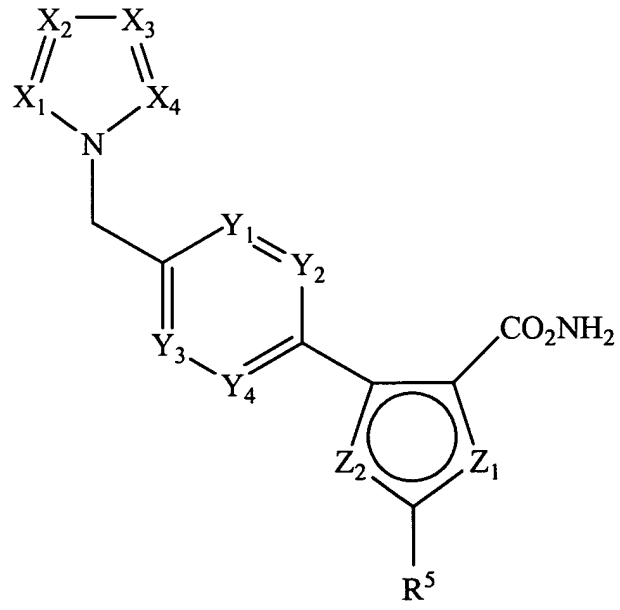
(ii) for compounds of formula I in which R^4 represents --$S(O)_2$2N(H)C(O)R^6 and R^6 represents C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6}-alkyl, coupling of a compound of formula II as defined above with a compound of formula IV, $R^{6a}CO_2H$ IV wherein R^{6a} represents C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6}-alkyl;

(iii) for compounds of formula I in which R^4 represents --C(O)N(H)$S(O)_2R^6$ and R^6 is as defined in claim 1, coupling of a compound of formula V,



wherein X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Z_1, Z_2 and R^5 are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula VI, $R^6S(O)_2NH_2$ VI wherein R^6 is as defined in claim 1;

(iv) for compounds of formula I in which R^4 represents --$C(O)N(H)S(O)_2R^6$ and R^6 is as defined in claim 1, coupling of a compound of formula VII,



wherein X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Z_1, Z_2 and R^5 are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula VIII, $R^6S(O)_2Cl$ VIII wherein R^6 is as defined in claim 1;

37. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula II as defined in claim 36.

38. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula II as claimed in claim 36, or a protected derivative thereof, wherein X_1, X_2, X_3, and X_4 all represent --CH--, Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, and Y_4 all represent --CH--, Z_1 represents --S--, Z_2 represents --CH-- and R^5 represents n-butyl or iso-butyl.

39. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula V as defined in claim 36.

40. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula VII as defined in claim 36.

Claims 41 -42. (Cancelled)

43. (Withdrawn) A method of treating cardiovascular disorders, comprising administering a compound of Claim 1 to a patient in need of treatment thereof, wherein the cardiovascular is selected from the group consisting of hypertension, cardiac hypertrophy, cardiac failure, artherosclerosis, arterial thrombosis, venous thrombosis, endothelial dysfunction, endothelial lesions, post-balloon dilatation stenosis, angiogenesis, microvascular dysfunction, angina, cardiac arrhythmias, claudicatio intermittens, preeclampsia, myocardial infarction, reinfarction, ischaemic lesions, and neointima proliferation.